

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: October 3, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-125)

TO: Peter Lofy
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager - KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Simcoe Creek Streamflow Enhancement and Passage

Project No: 2001-064-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis

(See App. A of the Watershed Management Program EIS): 1.5 Install Grade Control Structures and Check Dams, 1.14 Reduce Scour and Deposition at Hydraulic Structures, 1.15 Fish Passage Enhancement – Fishways, 4.23 Intake and Return Diversion Screens

Location: White Swan, Yakima County, Washington

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Yakama Nation

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to fund a fish passage improvement project with the Yakama Nation (YN) on Simcoe Creek near White Swan, Washington. Simcoe Creek, which lies entirely within the Yakama Indian Reservation, has been diverted for well over a century to irrigate tribal lands. Simcoe Creek is also utilized by steelhead belonging to the Middle Columbia River ESU for migration, spawning and rearing. Bonneville Power Administration proposes to assist the Yakama Nation in correcting steelhead passage problems at Hoptowit and Hubbard Diversions on Simcoe Creek. Because of channel instability at the Hubbard diversion site, the Hoptowit diversion will be used to supply both diversions. A flat-plate screen will be installed to prevent entrainment of juvenile steelhead into the ditches. It will also be necessary to construct rock weirs to stabilize the diversion location and provide the necessary elevation difference to operate screen bypass systems without impeding upstream migration of steelhead.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by David Lind with the Yakama Nation (July 14, 2003) and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are Middle Columbia River steelhead, bull trout, bald eagle, and Ute Ladies'tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA determined that the project would have no effect on bull trout, bald eagle, or Ute Ladies'-tresses. BPA submitted this determination to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on July 7, 2003. BPA determined that ESA consultation for Middle Columbia River steelhead and Essential Fish Habitat consultation for chinook and coho salmon were covered under BPA's Habitat Improvement Program Programmatic Biological Opinion with NOAA Fisheries. All applicable Terms and Conditions contained in the Programmatic Biological Opinion must be implemented accordingly (see attached HIP BO Consistency Form). Project design was approved by Melissa Jundt with NOAA Fisheries. A minor modification to the instream work window was approved by Kale Gullet with NOAA Fisheries, extending the work window to October 31, 2003.

In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, a cultural resources survey of the Simcoe Creek Project site was completed by William White, a Wildlife Archaeologist RPA with the Yakama Nation. As a result of an extensive pedestrian walkover survey of the site and equipment staging areas, no evidence of prehistoric or historic material were discovered. The report concluded that the project should proceed with a Yakama Nation Cultural Resource monitoring crew present during the construction phases of the project in the event that cultural material is uncovered during the construction of the Simcoe Creek Passage Project. Carroll Palmer, Deputy Director with the Yakama Nation Natural Resources Division, concurred with these findings and recommendations on August 29, 2003. A copy of the cultural resource report was also forwarded to the Washington State Historic Preservation Office as a courtesy.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of the Simcoe Creek Passage Project. No construction is authorized to begin until the proponent has obtained all applicable permits and approvals.

Public involvement has taken place as part of the Simcoe Creek Passage Project. The project was conceived and is being implemented by the Yakama Nation Water and Fisheries Programs, with the formal approval of the Roads, Irrigation and Land Committee of the Yakama Tribal Council. A meeting with affected landowners took place on July 23, 2003, coordinated by the Tribal realty office. Project staff also meet informally with interested parties and answer questions as they conduct activities in the project area.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Shannon Stewart

Shannon C. Stewart
Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Thomas C. McKinney

Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10/3/2003

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist
NOAA Fisheries HIP BO Consistency Form
USFWS No Effect Determination, July 7, 2003
Yakama Nation Natural Resources Division Letter of Concurrence, August 29, 2003

cc: (w/ attachments)
Mr. David Lind– Yakama Nation